



TNRCC INFORMATION

Waste Tire Recycling Program, Office of Permitting
September 1999

SUBJECT: Regular Tire Maintenance Will Extend The Life Of Tires

Tires are designed to provide thousands of miles of excellent service. For maximum benefit, they must be maintained properly. Below are suggestions for improving the life of your vehicle's tires.

- **Use Correct Tire Inflation Pressure**
With the correct amount of air pressure, your tires wear longer, save fuel and help prevent accidents. The correct air pressure is shown on the tire placard or sticker attached to the vehicle door edge, door post, or glove box door. Determine tire inflation using an accurate tire gauge purchased from your tire dealer, auto supply store, or other retailer. Check tire inflation pressure (including the spare) at least once a month and before every long trip. Tires must be checked when they are cold, before they have been run a mile. If you must drive more than one mile before checking the tire air pressure, add four pounds per square inch (psi) above the recommended cold air pressure. Recheck the air pressure when the tire is cold.
- **Never Overload The Vehicle**
Consult your vehicle tire placard and owner's manual for the vehicle load limits, proper tire inflation and special trailer towing instructions that apply to your vehicle and tires. Never exceed the maximum load rating stamped on the sidewall of your tire or the maximum vehicle load rating (GVWR) found on the certification label on the driver's door.
- **Inspect Your Tires Regularly**
Inspect your tires closely for signs of uneven wear at least once a month. Uneven wear patterns may be caused by improper inflation pressures, misalignment, improper balance or suspension neglect. If not corrected, further tire damage will occur. Inspect your tires for cuts, cracks, splits or bruises in the tread and sidewall areas. Bumps or bulges may indicate a separation with the tire body. Have your tires inspected by a qualified tire service person. When the tread is worn down to one-sixteenth of an inch, tires must be replaced. Never repair a tire with a puncture larger than 1/4 inch in diameter. Any tire repair done without removing the tire from the rim is improper. Inspect your rims also. If you have a bent, rusted or cracked rim, it must be replaced.
- **Observe Good Driving Habits**
Observe posted speed limits. Avoid fast starts, stops and turns. Avoid potholes and objects on the road. Don't run over curbs or scuff the sidewall of a tire against the curb when parking. Avoid tire spinning. When stuck on ice, snow, mud or wet grass, the vehicle should be rocked gently (alternately using forward and reverse gears) with the least amount of wheel spinning. If that doesn't free the vehicle, get a tow.